Capital investment for KG Basin D6

4385. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revised capital investment for KG Basin D6 field has been approved by Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore, when there was serious charges of Gold Plating of the capital cost and subsequent reduction in profit sharing by Government; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken by Government to re-examine the objection raised against the inflated cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) The Management Committee and the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons has approved the revised development plan based upon establishment of additional gas reserves and enhanced gas production submitted by the operator of the Block.

Capital Investment will be approved each year by Management Committee under the annual work programme and budget on realistic basis.

High Court's strictures against ONGC

4386. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Madras High Court had passed any strictures against ONGC on repeated litigation by the PSU on the issue of absorption of 51 employees as Marine Assistant Radio Operators;

(b) if so, the chronological details of the case; and

(c) whether Government are giving clear directives to the company to act as a model employer, as expected of a PSU *vis-a-vis* jobs of perennial nature where contract, casual, contingent and term-based workers are employed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Madras High Court has expressed a critical view of the position taken by ONGC in Writ Appeal No. 1290/2006.

(b) Initially, the Writ petitions were filed by the Contractual workers for absorption in ONGC. In the light of Supreme Court judgement delivered in the Air India Corporation matter, ONGC absorbed them as Junior Helpers in January, 1997. In due course of time, they have been given promotions also. In the year 2000, they preferred a fresh Writ Petition No. 21518/2000 before the Hon'ble High Court of Madras seeking their absorption to higher posts of Marine Assistant Radio Operators instead of Junior Helpers. The said Petition was decided in favour of the workers by High Court *vide* Order dated 2nd August, 2006. ONGC appealed against the said Order before Division Bench which upheld the order.

ONGC has filed an appeal in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India against the judgement passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Madras.

(c) ONGC deals with the cases of contract workers as per the prescribed procedures.

Post of CMD of ONGC

4387. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the post of CMD of Oil and Natural Gas Commission has been lying vacant since long and if so, since when and the reasons for not filling up the post as yet;